

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-51 were pending in the present application. The present response does not amend, cancel, or add any new claims, leaving pending in the application claims 1-51. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner all claims based on the patent to *Mikkelsen* (US 6,600,560) either alone or in combination with one or more of *Kokubo* (US 5,686,993), *Piwonka-Corle* (US 5,910,842), *Carlson* (US 4,771,629) and *Sei* (WO 01/06173).

Applicants have submitted herewith the declaration of David M. Aikens, a named inventor of the present application, which establishes that an illumination system corresponding to the subject invention was reduced to practice before the May 2, 2001, filing date of the *Mikkelsen* patent. It is respectfully submitted that the declaration of Mr. Aikens, which is based on his first hand knowledge, should be sufficient to remove *Mikkelsen* as a reference.

The patents to *Kokubo* (US 5,686,993), *Piwonka-Corle* (US 5,910,842), *Carlson* (US 4,771,629) and *Sei* (WO 01/06173) were cited as being applicable to the various features in the dependent claims. None of these references, whether taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the invention claimed herein.

Accordingly, based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims in the present application define patentable subject matter and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

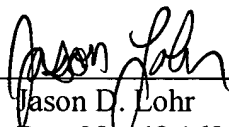
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the pending claims and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-1703, under Order No. TWI-13600. **A duplicate copy of the transmittal cover sheet attached to this Response to Office Action Mailed January 21, 2004, is provided herewith.**

Respectfully submitted,

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